

Public Health Talking Points for Producers, 3-26-20

- During this time, America's pig farmers will continue to demonstrate their We CareSM ethical principles. America's pig farmers have a long history of protecting people, pigs and the planet by doing the right things every day and we expect it to be no different even during this challenging time.
- It's critical to stay up to date and informed about COVID-19 as it relates to public health. Some reliable sites to regularly visit include www.cdc.gov/covid19 and state-specific public health websites. Also be sure to visit pork.org/covid-19 to see resources the Pork Checkoff has compiled and created specifically in support of the pork industry.
- Pork producers need to be familiar with the [recommendations](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) to help ensure that their families, farm employees and others know how to reduce the risk of getting or spreading COVID-19. Taking the necessary time to understand and answer questions is important.
- There are several key practices to follow to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover your cough.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Remember that older people and people with severe chronic conditions should [take special precautions](#) because they are at higher risk of developing serious COVID-19 illness.
- Be aware of the main signs and symptoms of COVID-19. These include fever, cough and shortness of breath, which may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Also, be sure to familiarize yourself with recommendations related to workplace sanitation and ensuring employee health and safety. Links to federal guidance as well as answers to frequently asked questions are on pork.org/covid-19.
- According to the CDC, there is no evidence at this time to suggest that any animals, pets, livestock such as pigs, or wildlife might be a source of COVID-19 infection. See the CDC's [information regarding animals and COVID-19](#).
- Producers should prepare for COVID-19 similar to how they would any on-farm disruption that affects their ability to provide proper care for people and pigs, such as a weather event, fire or other natural disaster.
 - Download and complete the new [Farm Crisis Operations Planning Tool](#), which prompts producers to answer questions such as: "how will pigs be taken care of if farm employees can't work due to illness, quarantine or other effects caused by a crisis?"
 - As outlined in the [Farm-Level Crisis Plan](#), producers should also make sure they have procedures in place if pig movement becomes delayed due to logistical challenges caused by COVID-19, such as delays at the plant or in feed delivery, etc.